

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15691 01 OF 02 141635Z

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ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 AID-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8848

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 15691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (ABOUREZK, JAMES)

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT RECEIVES SENATOR ABOUREZK

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN MEETING WITH SENATOR ABOUREZK, PRESIDENT SADAT SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION MUST REOPEN GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE TOWARD GLOBAL SOLUTION TO MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. FOLLOWING RIYADH/CAIRO ARAB SUMMIT, ARAB STATES WERE UNIFIED IN STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING SETTLEMENT. ISRAEL MUST ACCEPT PLO PRESENCE AT GENEVA AS SEPARATE ENTITY, AND SADAT WOULD HOLD USA AND USSR ULTIMATELY RESPONSIBLE FOR SEEING THAT IT DOES SO. SADAT CLEARLY EXPRESSED HIS READINESS TO SIGN PEACE AGREEMENT IN CONTEXT OF GLOBAL SOLUTION THAT WOULD ENTAIL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO 1967 BORDERS, CREATION OF PALESTINIAN STATE IN WEST BANK AND GAZA, AND EQUAL SECURITY GUARANTEES TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT RECEIVED SENATOR JAMES ABOUREZK (D-S.DAK) FOR APPROXIMATELY FORTY-FIVE MINUTES MORNING NOVEMBER 14, 1976 AT PRESIDENT'S KUNATRA BARRAGE COUNTRY RESIDENCE NORTH OF CAIRO. SADAT RESPONDED TO SENATOR'S EXPRESSION OF APPRECIATION FOR MEETING BY SAYING HE ALWAYS ENJOYED VISITS WITH HIS AMERICAN FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY PROVIDED CONTINUING OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. SADAT ADDED HE HAD BEEN DEEPLY TOUCHED BY BOTH OFFICIAL AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 15691 01 OF 02 141635Z

PRIVATE RECEPTION ACCORDED HIM BY AMERICAN PEOPLE DURING

HIS STATE VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES, AND WELCOMED EVERY OCCASION TO REPAY THAT KINDNESS.

3. SENATOR OPENED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS BY ASKING SADAT WHAT INITIATIVES HE EXPECTED FROM THE NEW U.S. ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO THE MIDDLE EAST. SADAT ANSWERED THAT PRESIDENT ELECT CARTER WILL NEED THE TRANSITION PERIOD TO LEARN AND APPRECIATE THE TECHNICALITIES AND DIMENSIONS OF THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM, BUT AFTER HIS INAUGURATION ON JANUARY 20, 1977, IT WAS ESSENTIAL THAT THE GENEVA MIDDLE EAST PEACE CONFERENCE (MEPC) BE RESUMED TO WORK OUT A GLOBAL SOLUTION TO THE ENTIRE PROBLEM. SADAT EXPLAINED THAT STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH SUCCEEDED THROUGH 1975 IN ACHIEVING SINAI II, BUT PEACE PROCESS WAS THEN DELAYED BY AMERICAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS. THE ARAB STATES, ACCORDING TO SADAT, WERE READY TO PROCEED AHEAD TOWARD PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, PARTICULARLY FOLLOWING OCTOBER 1976 RIYADH/CAIRO ARAB SUMMIT.

OBSERVERS WERE SURPRISED, STATED SADAT, AT DEPTH OF ARAB UNITY WHICH EMERGED FROM SUMMIT, BUT THIS PROVED AGAIN FOR THE WORLD THAT ARABS HAVE NEVER DISAGREED ON STRATEGY, ONLY ON TACTICS. HOW THERE WAS NO DISAGREEMENT, AND THE ARABS WERE READY FOR PEACE. THE QUESTION, SAID SADAT, WAS ISRAEL. WHEN SENATOR ABOUREZK QUERIED IF SYRIA WAS ALSO READY FOR PEACE, SADAT ANSWERED THAT, WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK FOR SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD, "WE (I.E., SYRIA AND EGYPT) ARE GIVING INTENSE STUDY TO THE STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN 1977, INCLUDING GENEVA."

4. THE SENATOR FOLLOWED BY ASKING IF THE PALESTINIANS WOULD GO TO GENEVA AS A SEPARATE PARTY TO THE CONFERENCE OR AS MEMBERS OF OTHER DELEGATIONS? SADAT ANSWERED THAT THE 1974 RABAT ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE MADE THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION (PLO) THE PARTY RESPONSIBLE TO SPEAK FOR THE PALESTINIANS. THIS WOULD GIVE ISRAEL DIFFICULTIES, SADAT SAID, BUT THE PALESTINIAN PROBLEM MUST BE SETTLED IF THE MIDDLE EAST QUESTION WAS TO BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 15691 01 OF 02 141635Z

RESOLVED. THAT QUESTION BEGAN WITH PALESTINE IN 1948 AND MUST END WITH THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE COMPRISED OF THE WEST BANK AND THE GAZA STRIP. WHEN SENATOR ABOUREZK ASKED IF THE PLO ITSELF WAS PREPARED TO GO TO GENEVA, SADAT SAID THAT WHILE THE PALESTINIANS CURRENTLY WERE HAVING DIFFICULTIES AMONG THEMSELVES, ULTIMATELY THEY WOULD GO TO THE CONFERENCE. SENATOR ABOUREZK THEN COMMENTED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN RECENTLY

WITH A PLO REPRESENTATIVE WHO HAD SAID THE PLO SOON
WOULD ISSUE A PUBLIC DECLARATION OF ITS READINESS
TO GO TO GENEVA, BUT THAT ISRAEL REMAINED THE OBSTACLE
TO PALESTINIAN ATTENDANCE. SADAT RESPONDED
THAT IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TWO SUPERPOWER
SPONSORS OF THE MEPC TO RESOLVE ISRAELI OBSTRUCTIONS
IN FAVOR OF PALESTINIAN ATTENDANCE, TO WHICH THE
SENATOR ADDED THAT IT WAS UP TO THE UNITED STATES TO
PUSH ISRAEL TO ACCEPT THE PLO AT GENEVA. SADAT JOKINGLY
COMMENTED THAT THE RABS HAD BEEN WAITING FOR THE U.S.
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS TO BE FINISHED SO THAT THIS
QUESTION COULD BE FACED.

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 15691 02 OF 02 141637Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8849

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 CAIRO 15691

5. SENATOR ABOUREZK THEN RAISED ISSUE OF ISRAELI
HARASSMENT OF EGYPTIAN DRILLING OPERATIONS IN GULF OF
SUEZ, TO WHICH SADAT SAID THAT THE ISRAELIS WERE "IDIOTS"
TO PURSUE THEIR MEDIAN LINE OBJECTIONS. NOTWITHSTANDING,
SADAT SAID HE WOULD NOT START WAR OVER ISRAELI ACTIONS
IN SUEZ GULF. INSTEAD, HE WAS WILLING TO WAIT 6-8
MONTHS AFTERWHICH HE WOULD ADDRESS THESE ISRAELI MOVES
AT GENEVA IN THE CONTEXT OF A GLOBAL SOLUTION TO THE
MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM WHICH WOULD MAKE ISRAEL WITHDRAW
FROM ALL OCCUPIED AREAS.

6. RETURNING TO SUBJECT OF MPEC, SENATOR ABOUREZK
ASKED WHETHER, IF ALL OCCUPIED TERRITORY WAS RETURNED
TO SYRIA AND EGYPT AND THE PALESTINIANS GIVEN A STATE,
WOULD EGYPT THEN SIGN A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL?

SADAT ANSWERED VERY CLEARLY THAT HE WAS READY TO SIGN,
AND ADDED THAT HE HAD RESPONDED TO GOLDA MEIR'S MAY 1971
PEACE SETTLEMENT CHALLENGE BY PUBLICLY DECLARING HIS
READINESS TO SIGN. SADAT THEN STATED, WITHOUT ANY
AMBIGUITY, "LET US OFFICIALLY END THE STATE OF
BELLIGERENCY THROUGH A PEACE AGREEMENT." FOLLOWING THAT
AGREEMENT, SADAT CONTINUED, ISRAEL WOULD WITHDRAW TO
1967 BORDERS AND A PALESTINIAN STATE WOULD BE
CREATED OUT OF THE WEST BANK AND GAZA. ABOUREZK SAID
LATER TO HIS KNOWLEDGE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME SADAT HAD
BEEN THIS SPECIFIC, I.E., TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENT,
THEN IMPLEMENT IT LATER.
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 15691 02 OF 02 141637Z

7. SENATOR ABOUREZK CLOSED BY COMMENTING THAT THERE
WAS CONCERN EXPRESSED IN SOME QUARTERS THAT PALESTINIAN
STATE, IF CREATED, WOULD SERVE AS A BASE FOR PALESTINAINS
TO MOUNT AN ATTACK ON ISRAEL. SADAT RESPONDED THAT WHO-
EVER VOICED SUCH CONCERN MUST HAVE BEEN DOING SO
SARCASTICALLY; OF THE FOUR ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICTS,
THREE HAD BEEN STARTED BY ISRAEL AND ONLY ONE BY THE
ARABS. THE GLOBAL SOLUTION OF WHICH HE WAS SPEAKING,
SADAT SAID, PRESUMED GUARANTEES OF ISRAEL'S SECURITY,
WHICH SADAT WOULD ALSO DEMAND FOR EGYPT; EGYPT MUST
HAVE THE SAME GUARANTEES AS THOSE GIVEN ISRAEL.

8. READ AND CLEARED BY CODEL ABOUREZK.
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